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FILE ONLY

Fuqua retiring from Florida seat in House

Rep. Don Fuqua, Florida Democrat, announced over the weekend that he would retire from Congress after 24 years. Mr. Fuqua, 52, is chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, which oversees NASA and the space shuttle program.

Congressional insiders say Mr. Fuqua wanted to spend more time with his wife, Nancy, who aides said has "fully recovered" from a bout with cancer.

"I'm still young enough to pursue other interests," Mr. Fuqua said in a statement released in Tallahassee. "I've been there a long, long time ... I've served under six presidents. At some point, you've got to decide when you're going to get out."

On Capitol Hill, Mr. Fuqua has focused most of his energy on the space program, which is a vital part of the Florida economy.

Florida Attorney General Jim Smith is among several contenders eyeing the seat.

Rep. Robert A. Roe, New Jersey Democrat, has said he is interested in succeeding Mr. Fuqua as chairman of the Science Committee. Mr. Roe, 62, is now head of the House Public Works and Transportation subcommittee on water resources.

Freshman Republican Rep. David S. Monson also has announced he would not seek re-election to his 2nd District seat in Utah after it appeared that local party officials would try to find a primary challenger to run against him.

"I have never had anybody telling me point-blank I shouldn't run for re-election," Mr. Monson said. "I don't think it would have taken much to talk me into running."

Mr. Monson, 40, who previously said he intended to run no matter who opposed him, said his decision was based on consideration for his wife and five children. In 1984, Mr. Monson — then the lieutenant governor — won the seat by a 0.2 percent margin over former Democratic state Sen. Frances Farley.

Former Rep. Wayne Owens, the likely Democratic contender, is running ahead of Mr. Monson by about 12 points, according to a recent poll.

So far this year, 15 House members have announced they're retiring and seven House members have said they're running for other political office.

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ALABAMA: Jim Allen Jr., whose father served in the Senate from Alabama for a decade, has decided to challenge Rep. Richard Shelby in

the Democratic Senate primary. Mr. Allen is a 40-year-old, part-time political science teacher for Jacksonville State University and member of the state Board of Education. The winner of the June 3 primary will face Republican Sen. Jeremiah Denton.

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MINNESOTA: Hubert H. Humphrey III, 43, is seeking another term as Minnesota attorney general, but he hasn't ruled out running for the U.S. Senate in either 1988 against Republican Sen. David Durenberger or in 1990 against Republican Sen. Rudy Boschwitz. Mr. Humphrey is the eldest son of the late former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey Jr., who also was a Democratic senator from Minnesota.

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PENNSYLVANIA: Former two-term Rep. Charles F. Dougherty said he would enter the May 20 primary against former state Sen. Robert Rovner.

Mr. Dougherty, who was ousted by Democratic Rep. Robert Borski in 1982, switched to the Democratic party in January and now has switched back to run as a Republican for his old congressional seat in the northeastern Philadelphia area.

Mr. Borski faces his own challenge, from Jack C. Holton, in the Democratic primary.

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IDAHO: Former Interior Secretary of Idaho after a five-year absence from politics. Mr. Andrus, a Democrat who served under President Carter, said this week he will run against Republican Lt. Gov. Dave Leroy for the job being vacated by Democratic Gov. John Evans. Mr. Evans is seeking the Senate seat held by Republican Steve Symms.

Mr. Andrus served as governor from 1970 to 1977 when he resigned to join the Carter administration. Since 1981, Mr. Andrus has been a Boise consultant promoting the Northwest aluminum industry.

In the 36 states electing governors this year, eight others will feature former governors trying to get their old jobs back. While not all have announced officially yet, the list of those seeking to have the word "former" removed includes Democrats Fob James of Alabama and Richard Kneip of South Dakota and Republicans Walter Hickel of Alaska, Bob Bennett of Kansas, James Rhodes of Ohio, Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Winfield Dunn of Tennessee and Bill Clements of Texas.

From Times News Services and Staff Reports.